Review of performance of DRDAs

2344. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of review of performance of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) carried out if any, together with the findings thereof;

(b) the details of DRDAs found to be deficient especially in terms of management of funds, implementation of schemes and benefiting the targeted groups etc. in each case;

(c) whether conduct of audit of the accounts of DRDAs is statutory to be carried out by independent audit agencies;

(d) the rules governing appointment and termination of the statutory auditors and scope of their exercise; and

(e) the details of instances where DRDAs accounts have been referred to the CAG for scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Performance of DRDAs is reviewed constantly through various monitoring measures such as Concurrent Evaluation, District Level Monitoring, field studies by National Level Monitors and periodic examination of accounts and fund utilization conducted by the office of the Chief Controller of Accounts of the Ministry.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a mechanism to ensure proper management of funds by the DRDAs at the time of release of second instalment a detailed scrutiny is undertaken in which the position of utilization of funds and progress of implementation of programmes are taken into account.

(c) and (d) As per the Programme guidelines, the Accounts of DRDAs are required to be audited by Chartered Accountants or Local Fund Auditors. According to the Guidelines of Accounting Procedure circulated by the Ministry, preference will be given to Chartered Accountants listed in the panel of AGs of the States or C&AG of India.

(e) The Accounts of DRDAs are open to test audit by the C&AG and such audits are undertaken by them from time to time.